New Railway Line from Todepalligudem to Khammam

2099. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has done a survey on the possibility of having a new Railway line between Todepalligudem junction and Khammam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that high congestion and geographical position of Vijayadwada is delaying train journeys;

(c) whether a direct line between Todepalligudem and Khammam would have a positive impact on Coastal and Northern Andhra; and

(d) the steps proposed to find a solution to reduce distance, delays and economic losses by having a by-pass between Todapelligudem and Khammam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No assessment in this regard has been done.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Hoshiarpur station

2100. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development of Hoshiarpur station (district head quarter) in Punjab has not been up to the mark;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the development of the said station during the last three years ending 31st December, 2006;

(c) whether there are any plans to suitably develop the station during 2007-08, if so, the details thereof indicating the expenditure to be incurred for the purpose; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During 2003-04 Rs. 5.14 lakh, 2004-05 Rs. 6.68 lakh, 2005-06 Rs. 2.66 lakh and 2006-07 (upto Dec. 06) Rs. 3.99 lakh.

(c) Hoshiarpur station has been nominated for development as Model station. Following works at the total estimated cost of Rs. 75.44 lakh have been planned to develop this station;

(i) Special repair to approach road of goods platform and station approaches.

(ii) Improvement to circulating area, waiting room, platform.

(iii) Provision of new pump house and tank.

(iv) Special repair of station building.

(v) Development of park in connection with beautification of circulating area.

(d) Does not arise.

Lengthening 3-tier sleeper coach compartments

2101. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to lengthen 3-tier sleeper coach compartments by 5 feet;

(b) if so, whether an extension of length would create technical and design problems;

(c) what steps Railways is taking to improve availability of passenger accommodation all over the country;

(d) what immediate steps would be taken to reduce the crowds and meet demand of passenger traffic; and

(e) the steps proposed to give priority to passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a design of a coach with higher height has been evolved and a prototype AC 3-tier coach has also been manufactured and subject to certification of this design, the carrying capacity in such coaches shall be enhanced.